

#EO-54
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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

January 15, 2004

Mr. David Barton, Esq.
The Gardner Law Firm
745 East Mulberry Avenue, Suite 100
San Antonio, TX 78212-3149

Re: STB Finance Docket 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company –
Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX

Dear Mr. Barton:

Thank you for your letter dated November 25, 2003 to Ms. Rini Ghosh of my staff regarding Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's (SGR) proposed rail line construction and operation in Medina County, Texas.

In your letter you request information regarding the Open House held by the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in Hondo, Texas on June 12, 2003. At the Open House, SEA provided the public with informational handouts regarding the environmental review process and the opportunity to ask questions on an informal basis, to view informational poster displays and to submit written comments. Approximately 200 people attended the Open House and SEA received over 100 comment letters. Summaries of the comment letters as well as discussion of the substantive issues raised will be included in the environmental document that SEA will issue for public review and comment.

All of the comments SEA has received pursuant to the Open House are available through the internet on the Board's Environmental Correspondence website. The comments can be accessed by going to www.stb.dot.gov, clicking on "Environmental Issues," clicking on "Environmental Correspondence," and then searching the correspondence under "FD 34284."

Enclosed please find the additional information that is responsive to your request. This information includes:

1. A copy of the text sent to the *Hondo Anvil Herald* to advertise the Open House on June 5, 2003 and June 12, 2003.
2. A copy of the letter from SEA sent to Federal, state, and local agencies, local organizations and possible interested members of the public to announce and describe the Open House.

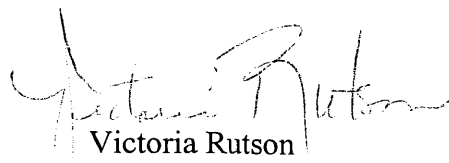
3. A copy of the handouts provided by SEA to attendees at the Open House.
4. A copy of the text of the posters displayed by SEA at the Open House.
5. A copy of the notes taken by SEA staff at the Open House.
6. A phone log of the calls received on SEA's information hotline set up for the Open House.
7. SEA's and SEA's third-party contractor's (URS Corporation, Inc.) schedule of tasks to complete prior to the Open House.
8. E-mail correspondence between SEA and SGR coordinating the logistical details of the Open House.
9. The sign-in list of people who attended the Open House.

We assume that your request does not extend to internal, predecisional e-mails and working drafts of documents, which are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

If you require additional information, please submit a written request to the Board's FOIA Officer at the following address: **Mr. John Atkisson, FOIA Officer, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001.**

We appreciate your interest in the environmental review process for this proceeding. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Rini Ghosh at (202) 565-1539.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures



The Surface Transportation Board's
Section of Environmental Analysis
Invites you to a
Public Open House
On
Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's
Proposed Rail Line in Medina County
Thursday, June 12, 2003
5 – 7 p.m.
McDowell Middle School Cafeteria
1602 27th St.
Hondo, TX

For information call 512-419-5941



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

2

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

June 2, 2003

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34284 – Southwest Gulf Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter that was mailed to you on May 29th, as well as a map, which was inadvertently excluded from the initial mailing.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

May 29, 2003

**Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34284 – Southwest Gulf Railroad Company –
Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX**

Dear Interested Party:

The Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is conducting an environmental review analyzing the potential environmental issues associated with Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's (SGR's) proposal to build and operate a new, seven-mile rail line in Medina County, Texas. SEA will be holding an open house on Thursday, June 12, 2003, to inform and receive comments from the public about the proposed project and the environmental review process. The open house will be from 5 – 7 p.m. at the McDowell Middle School cafeteria at 1602 27th St. in Hondo, Texas.

The Environmental Review Process

The Surface Transportation Board (Board) is a Federal regulatory agency with jurisdiction over proposals to construct and operate rail lines. Because SGR's proposed rail construction and operation is a major Federal action requiring Board approval, SEA is conducting an environmental review of the potential environmental impacts of SGR's proposal in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

After conducting appropriate environmental studies, SEA will issue for public review and comment a draft environmental document setting forth SEA's preliminary recommendations and conclusions. SEA will then consider all comments received from the general public, government agencies, and other interested parties, and will conduct further analysis and review, if necessary, before submitting its final recommendations to the Board. Upon completion of the environmental review, the Board will issue a final decision on SGR's proposal.

SEA's environmental review of the rail line will involve an analysis of the following areas:

- Safety and health;
- Land use;
- Environmental justice;

- Physical setting;
- Water resources;
- Biological resources;
- Transportation;
- Air quality;
- Noise;
- Cultural resources;
- Recreational resources;
- Social and economic effects; and
- Cumulative effects.

SGR's Proposed Project

SGR's proposed rail line would extend about seven miles from a new Vulcan Materials Company limestone quarry in Medina County to a connection with the Union Pacific Railroad Company near Dunlay, Texas. Although the line would primarily serve the quarry, SGR states that it would also be available to serve any other nearby industries in the future.

After examining a number of alternatives, SGR has identified a proposed route that, although not the shortest, avoids environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands and crosses a smaller number of properties than the alternative routes. The attached map shows SGR's proposed route and the alternative routes.

The "no build" alternative would involve transporting crushed rock via trucks from the quarry to a new rail loading facility that would be constructed near Dunlay.

Open House

Public participation is an important part of the environmental review process. SEA is conducting the open house to provide all interested members of the public with an opportunity to learn about the environmental review process for this rail project and participate in the environmental review process.

Representatives of SEA and of SEA's consultant, URS Corporation, Inc., who is working under the supervision, direction, and control of SEA to assist in the preparation of the environmental document, will be available to answer your questions and hear your concerns.

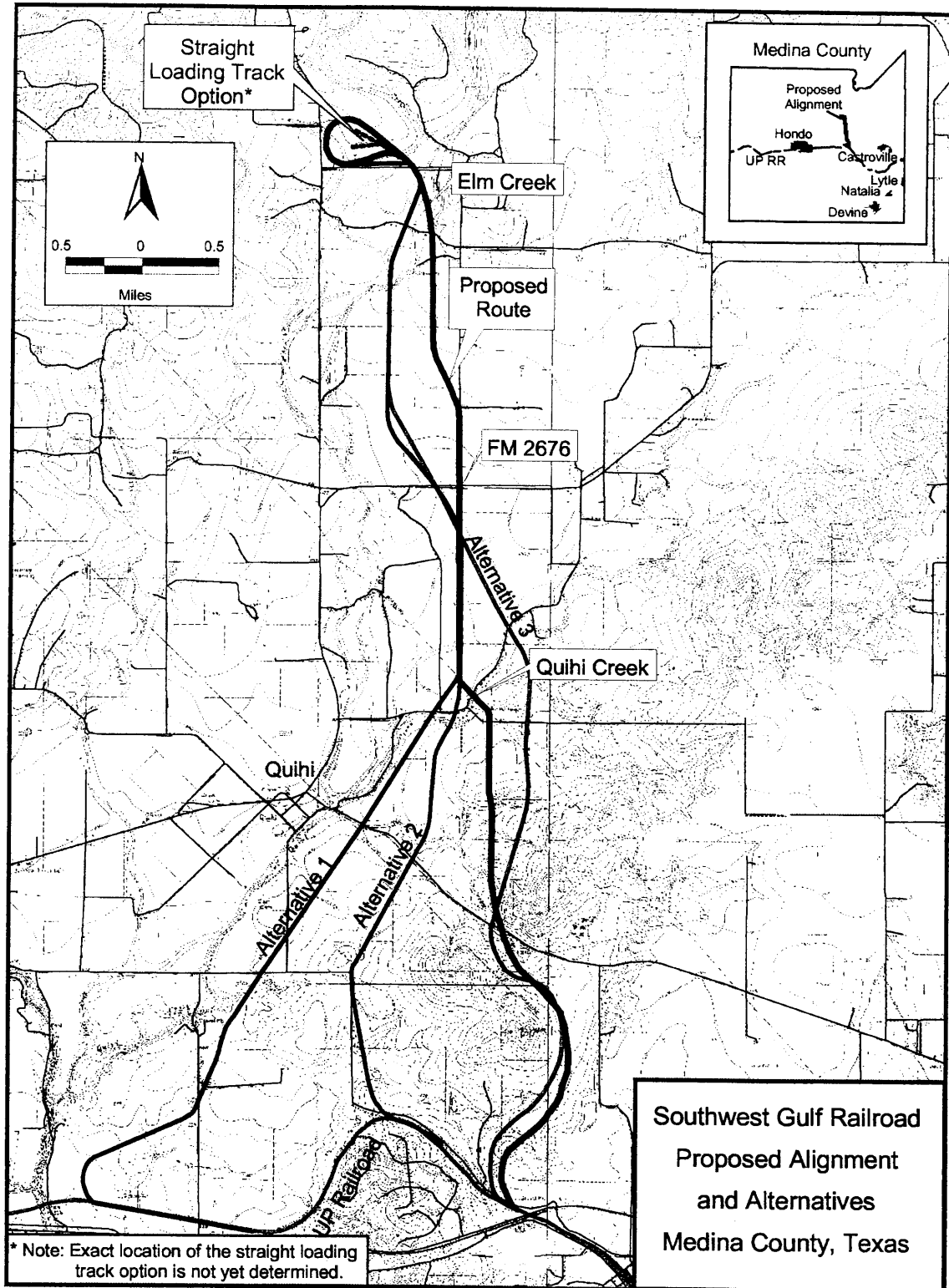
We hope you will join us on June 12th and look forward to providing you with additional information about the environmental review process and hearing your comments on the proposed project. If you have any questions about the open house, please contact the project hotline at 512-419-5941.

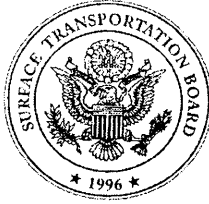
Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a stylized "R".

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

FD 34284





Fact Sheet

Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's
Proposed Rail Construction
in Medina County, Texas
STB Finance Docket No. 34284

Public Open House

June 12, 2003

Introduction

The Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is conducting an independent environmental review of Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's (SGR's) proposal to build and operate a seven-mile rail line in Medina County, Texas, and would like to hear your comments and concerns.

The purpose of tonight's public open house is twofold: 1) to discuss SGR's proposed rail construction and SEA's environmental review process; and 2) to solicit your comments on potential environmental impacts.

Representatives from SEA and URS Corporation, Inc. (SEA's independent third-party contractor) are present and available to provide information, answer questions, and hear your comments. Representatives from SGR may also be available to answer questions about the proposed rail construction.

Description of the Proposed Project

The proposed rail line would extend from Vulcan Construction Materials, LP's (VCM) proposed quarry in the north central part of the county to a connection with the Del Rio Subdivision of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) near Dunlay. At the quarry, the rail line would extend for an additional two-mile unloading/loading loop or 1-mile straight track. The proposed quarry would produce crushed stone aggregate for highway and other construction purposes. Although the proposed line would primarily serve the quarry, SGR states that it would also be available to serve any other nearby industries in the future.

Purpose and Need for the Project

VCM plans to locate a new quarry on a site the company owns in the north central part of Medina County. The quarry would produce crushed stone aggregate for highway and other construction purposes.

According to SGR, when the rail line is in operation, it would ship 5 million tons of rock per year to Houston and southeast Texas (416 trains with 100 cars each, per year). This amounts to about four trains a day (two loaded and two returning empty), assuming a 250-day work year.

Shipping this same amount of rock by truck would be more costly and would require over 850 trucks a day.

Proposed Route of Rail Line

SGR's proposed rail line would consist of a single-track rail line between the planned quarry and the UP connection.

As shown in Figure 1, the proposed line would meet the UP rail line at approximately milepost 250 of the UP line, at a point near Dunlay. The proposed line would not cross any incorporated or densely populated areas and would not cross any other rail lines. The proposed route would cross FM 2676 and some county paved and unpaved roads but would not cross any major highways. It would also cross several streams with intermittent seasonal flow.

SGR has stated that it would install appropriate grade crossing safety devices, such as warning signs and stop signs, at all grade crossings. Trains would travel at approximately 25 mph.

Route Alternatives

SGR has identified a proposed route that, although not the shortest, avoids environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands and crosses a smaller number of properties than the alternative routes. The attached map shows SGR's proposed route and the alternative routes developed so far. (We welcome suggestions you may have for routing alternatives as well.)

The "no-build" alternative would require the use of trucks to transport aggregate to the UP line and would also require the construction of a new rail loading facility near Dunlay.

The Environmental Review Process

The Surface Transportation Board is a Federal regulatory agency with jurisdiction over proposals to construct and operate rail lines. Because SGR's proposed construction and operation of a rail line is a major Federal action requiring Board approval, SEA is conducting a review of the potential environmental impacts of SGR's proposal. This environmental review is in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

SEA's environmental review consists of an analysis of the following areas:

Safety and Health – to determine whether the proposed action would have future impacts on public health and safety (including vehicle delay time at railroad grade crossings).

Land Use – to determine potential impacts associated with increased or decreased rail activity and truck traffic associated with the operation of a new railroad line. These impacts include potential visual (aesthetics) impacts and those related to air quality, noise, and public safety.

Environmental Justice – to assess whether the proposed rail line would disproportionately affect environmental justice communities of concern (minority populations or low-income populations).

Water Resources – to evaluate surface and groundwater quality impacts associated with the construction and operation phases of the project. Based on consultations with water quality officials, SEA will identify if the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, state and local water quality standards.

Wetlands – to quantify wetlands that could be lost as a result of the project.

Biological Resources – to determine the potential impacts of the proposed project on area biological resources, including threatened and endangered species.

Air Quality – to examine the impacts of construction and operation of the proposed rail line on local air quality.

Noise – to characterize future noise impacts as construction-related and operational or short term and long term respectively. The noise of operation will be characterized qualitatively along with the future cumulative noises related from expanded quarrying.

Transportation – to assess the effects of the proposed project on regional and local transportation systems and patterns. Analysis will include an estimate of the amount of traffic that will be diverted to other transportation systems or modes as a result of this action.

Cultural and Historic Resources – to determine the potential direct and indirect impacts of the proposed rail line on historic structures and archaeological sites that have been determined potentially eligible, eligible, or listed on the National Register of Historic Places within or immediately adjacent to the proposed route.

Recreational Resources – to determine the potential impact of the project on local recreational opportunities.

Social and Economic Effects – to determine the potential impact of the project on local residences, residential areas, and communities. Potential impacts on commercial and industrial activities, and local development also will be evaluated.

After conducting appropriate environmental studies, SEA will issue for public review and comment a draft environmental document setting forth SEA's preliminary recommendations and conclusions. SEA will then consider all comments received from the general public, government agencies, and other interested parties, and will conduct further analysis and review, if necessary, before submitting its final recommendations to the Board. At the conclusion of the environmental review process, the Board will make a final decision taking into account the information presented in the environmental record. The Board will then decide whether to approve, deny, or approve with mitigation conditions SGR's proposal.

Public Involvement

Your participation in the environmental review process is critical to the success of the environmental review process. SEA has developed a public involvement program for this project, to share project information and to receive public input. Earlier this spring, SEA sent consultation letters to various Federal, state, and local agencies to gather information on their opinions or concerns regarding the proposed rail line.

At tonight's public open house, SEA is providing all interested members of the general public with a chance to learn about and participate in the environmental review process for this rail project.

After conducting appropriate environmental studies, SEA will issue for public review and comment a draft environmental document setting forth SEA's preliminary recommendations, including proposed environmental mitigation measures. During that period, the public and all interested parties will be invited to submit comments to SEA regarding any aspect of the proposed project and the environmental document.

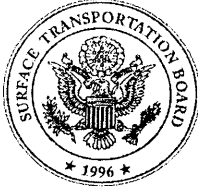
How to Submit Comments

SEA welcomes comments on the potential environmental impacts of SGR's proposed rail line from all members of the public. Please provide your written comments tonight by stopping by the comment table. If you would like to send comments at a later date, please address them to:

Attn: FD 34284
Ms. Rini Ghosh
Attorney-Adviser
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K St. NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20423-0001

For More Information

For additional project information, contact Ms. Rini Ghosh at the above address or call SEA's information line for this project at 512-419-5941. The web site for the Surface Transportation Board is www.stb.dot.gov.



Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's
Proposed Rail Construction in Medina County, TX
STB Finance Docket No. 34284

June 12, 2003

This questionnaire and comment form is designed to help you identify and describe any issues of interest to you regarding Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's Proposed Rail Construction in Medina County, TX. Your comments will help the Surface Transportation Board, Section of Environmental Analysis understand public interests and concerns about the project as we conduct our environmental review. Please complete this questionnaire after you have reviewed the exhibits and the map attached to this form.

Please give us the completed form tonight or mail to:

Attn: FD 34284
Rini Ghosh
Attorney-Adviser
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Your name and address are optional, but would be useful if you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive subsequent information regarding this project.

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Telephone:

1. Which of the following applies to your situation?

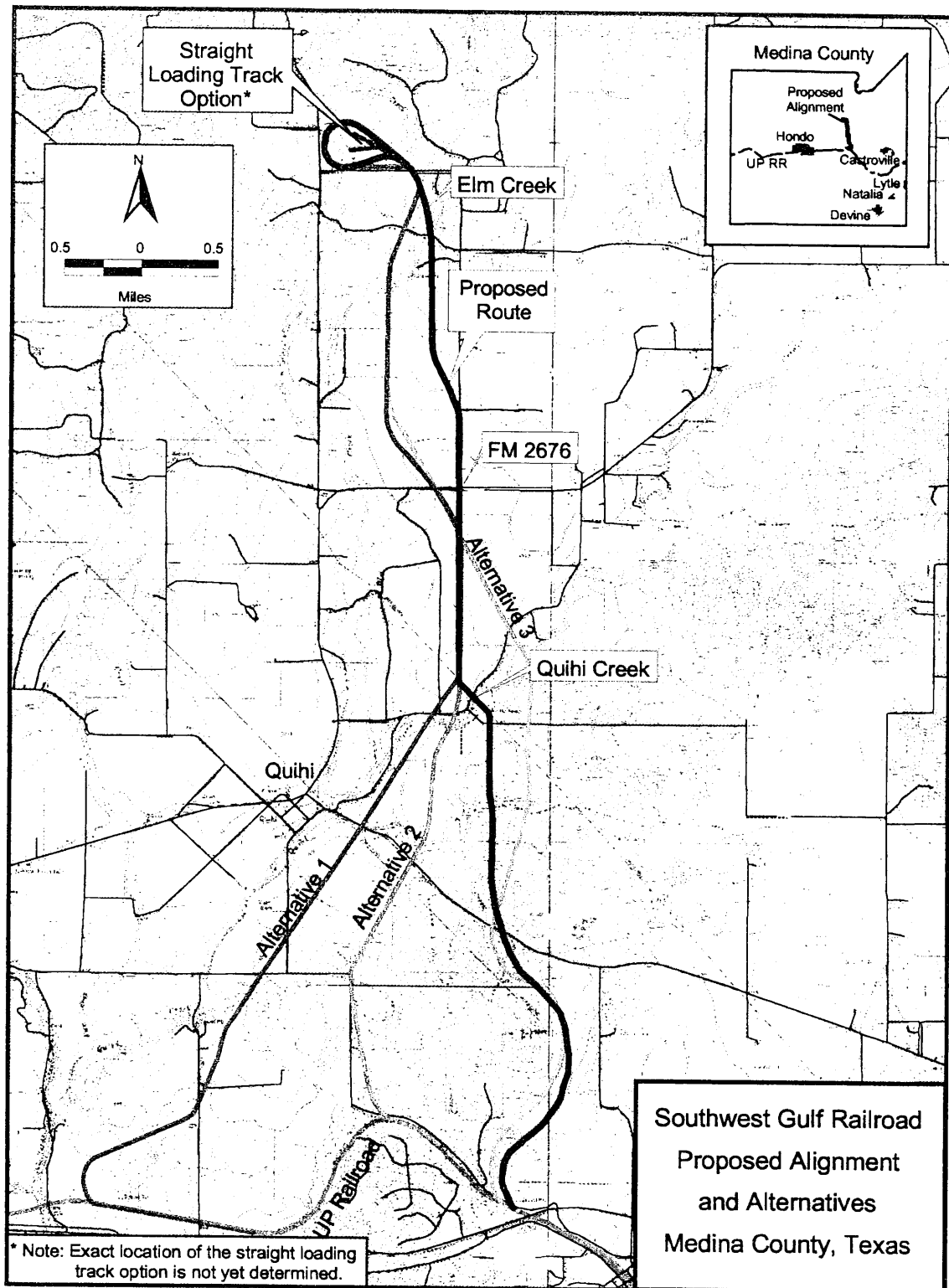
- ☐ The proposed rail line is near my home.
 - ☐ The proposed rail line is near my business.
 - ☐ The proposed rail line crosses my property
 - ☐ Other, please specify
-

2. What are your concerns regarding potential environmental impacts and do you have any mitigation suggestions?

3. Please use this space for additional comments or suggestions.

Thank you for your comments.

FD 34284



Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's
Proposed Rail Construction in
Medina County, TX
Finance Docket FD 34284

Agencies and Organizations Consulted

FEDERAL

- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Park Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

STATE

- Cherokee Nation
- Comanche Nation
- Edwards Aquifer Authority
- Governor's Office of Budget and Planning
- Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
- Texas Attorney General's Office
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas General Land Office
- Texas Historical Commission
- Texas Parks and Wildlife
- Texas Water Development Board

LOCAL

- Alamo Area Council of Governments
- City of Castroville
- City of Hondo
- County Judge, Medina County
- Medina County Environmental Action Association
- Medina County Groundwater Conservation District
- Schweers Historical Foundation



Project Overview

SEA's Role

To perform an independent environmental analysis of the proposed project and make environmental recommendations to the Surface Transportation Board on Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's (SGR's) proposed rail construction and operation in Medina County, Texas.

Description of the Proposed Project

SGR's proposed rail line would extend approximately seven miles from a new Vulcan Materials Company limestone quarry in Medina County to a connection with the Union Pacific Railroad Company near Dunlay, Texas.

Scope of Study

SEA's environmental review of the rail line will involve an analysis of the following areas:

- Safety and health
- Social and economic effects
- Land use
- Environmental justice
- Physical setting
- Water resources
- Biological resources
- Transportation
- Air quality
- Noise
- Cultural resources
- Recreational resources
- Cumulative effects

Public Involvement

- Important part of the environmental review process.
- Open house is opportunity for you to ask questions/submit comments
- Draft environmental document available for public review and comment



Rail Construction Proposals Before the Surface Transportation Board: Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) NEPA Review Process



Notes taken by SEA staff at Open House held June 12, 2003

Phone numbers and addresses redacted from web version of this document.

- Linda Bayer ([REDACTED]) – requested specific information on exactly where the locations of the proposed and alternative rail routes would be in relation to her home ([REDACTED]).
- Mary Walpole ([REDACTED]) lives next to Alternative 3. She has vertigo and takes daily medication and is concerned that train vibrations would make her ill. She questioned how many trains would operate over the line. Would there be an increase in traffic from the initial operations of four trains per day?
- Tom Walpole ([REDACTED]) – concerned that his property value will decrease. Concerned about condemnation of land. Concerned about fires starting from sparks from the track on the grain fields. No nearby firefighters and area is dry.
- Jennifer Lindsey ([REDACTED]) – proposed rail line would cut property in half. Eighty acre cornfield – irrigation would be gone. Orchard would be gone. Destroying livelihood. Has a historic house that would crumble. Just moved here three years ago. Cows will get through the fence and be run over by the trains.
- A gentleman expressed concern regarding blasting in the area. A woman stated that blasting would be required to build the rail loading loop.
- Others stated that the railroad is lying to the STB – it's not a common carrier. It's a private rail line that should not be allowed to be built.
- A gentleman indicated that 2 residential subdivisions were not shown on the map. Questioned how blasting in the quarry would affect the Medina Dam and Medina Lake.
- Other comments: the water wells of two communities would be affected; FM 2676 needs to be grade separated. Dust and noise problems from 24 hours of rail operations. Concerned about the historic homes in Quihi. They will fall down from vibration.
- Fire Chief commented that there would be EMS response problems and leaking diesel fuel would create hazards. The way of life of Medina County would be destroyed.
- Other comments – Cherry Creek would experience an increase in water levels. Have already moved because of this. Moved to this area because it's quiet. Noise levels from rail traffic will be bothersome. If need to get to a hospital through 4516, there will be a delay. Alternative 3 goes through property that contains two historic homes.
- Cynthia Lindsey – lives in Quihi and has a historic home on property that would be destroyed by vibrations. Has hundreds of Indian artifacts on land.

- Other comments – worried about flooding concerns. Worried about being trapped by a flood and a derailment. What type of chemicals would be on the railroad?
- The Ferners – train would go right by their house. Concerned about property values. CR 353 – rail would cross it twice. Concerned about grade crossings and driving delays. Worried about fencing for cattle.
- Other concerns – condemnation concerns, rail bed would change water flow, flooding issues. Who would pay for wells when ruined? Water quality concerns. Pipeline concerns.
- Russell Mangold ([REDACTED]) request a copy of the aerial map that was displayed.
- Norah Winkler ([REDACTED]) requests a copy of the flowchart that was displayed.
- A gentleman said his rights under the “Open Meetings Act” had been violated by the format of the meeting.

SGR Information Line
Call Log
Phone numbers redacted from web version of this document

Date/Time of Call	Name/Number of Caller	Message	Response Date/Time	Responder Name	Response
6/2/03 2:10 pm EDT	Russell Mangold [REDACTED]	Inquiry about map missing from letter	6/4/03 10:30 am EDT	Rini Ghosh	Told him that map was mailed on 6/2/03
6/2/03 3:49 pm EDT	Lane Kitchen [REDACTED]	Inquiry about format of Open House	6/4/03 11:00 am EDT	Rini Ghosh	Discussed Open House format and learned that he is MCEAA's environmental contact.
6/9/03 2 p.m. CDT	Unidentified man and woman	<p>Questions:</p> <p>1. Can they submit verbal comments on this number?</p> <p>2. Can they get a copy of sign-in sheet from the meeting under the Freedom of Information Act?</p> <p>3. What results are available from environmental review? How far along are you in</p>	6/9/03 2 p.m. CDT	Nancy Gates	<p>1. Encouraged them to submit written comments at meeting or later.</p> <p>2. Told them I would check with SEA and would let them know at the meeting.</p> <p>3. I explained the environmental review process and that we are still collecting data.</p> <p>4. Yes</p> <p>5. The information line is in Austin.</p>

[illegible]

SGR Public Meeting
June 12, 2003
Planning Timeline

Activity	Date Due
Develop ad copy and submit for review	May 20
Place ad in <i>Hondo Anvil Herald</i>	June 5/June 12
Prepare draft of letter and submit for review	May 20
Finalize letter	May 23
Finalize mailing list for letter	May 23
Request additional STB envelopes from SEA	May 23
Mail letter	May 28
Prepare draft of fact sheet for meeting	May 28
Prepare list of exhibits for meeting	May 27
Produce exhibits	June 6
Hold public meeting	June 12



Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@U
RSCorp.com
03/20/2003 10:21 AM

To "Coburn, David" <DCoburn@steptoe.com>
cc ghoshr@stb.dot.gov, Nancy_Gates@URSCorp.com
bcc
Subject Request for additional information- SGR EA- public
involvement task

David,

Please see the request for information below. Could you please forward it to Vulcan? If you and Vulcan wish, we could also set up a conference call to discuss this information.

Thanks

Jaya

Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek
Senior Biochemical/Environmental Engineer
URS Corporation
9400 Amberglen Blvd.
Austin, TX, 78729

512-419-5316
512-454-8807 (Fax)
Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com

----- Forwarded by Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek/Austin/URSCorp on 03/20/2003 09:18 AM -----

Nancy Gates	
Zyman-Ponebshek/Austin/URSCorp@URSCORP	To: Jaya
03/19/2003 12:03 PM	cc:
information	Subject: Request for

Jaya,

To plan for the public involvement activities associated with the proposed SGR project, I would like to find out about what kinds of contacts SGR representatives have had with local stakeholders since the year 2000. I have searched the website "dont mess with quihi.com" and noted that there have been no postings from the Medina County Environmental Action Association in the last three years.

In particular, I am requesting information on:

- Types of people contacted (e.g., landowners, MCEAA members, local government officials, etc.)
- New issues that may have emerged

- Types of contact (meetings, phone conversations)

Thanks so much,
Nancy



"Coburn, David"
<DCoburn@steptoe.com>
03/24/2003 03:40 PM

To "Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@URSCorp.com"
<Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@URSCorp.com>
cc ghosh@stb.dot.gov, Nancy_Gates@URSCorp.com
bcc
Subject RE: Request for additional information- SGR EA- public
involvement task

Jaya -- A chronology of contacts with local landowner groups and government agencies is being compiled. I expect to forward this to you within the next two days or so. As you will see when you get it, there have been numerous meetings over the last few years. Regards. David

-----Original Message-----

From: Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@URSCorp.com [mailto:Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@URSCorp.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2003 10:22 AM
To: Coburn, David
Cc: ghosh@stb.dot.gov; Nancy_Gates@URSCorp.com
Subject: Request for additional information- SGR EA- public involvement task

David,

Please see the request for information below. Could you please forward it to Vulcan? If you and Vulcan wish, we could also set up a conference call to discuss this information

Thanks

Jaya

Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek
Senior Biochemical/Environmental Engineer
URS Corporation
9400 Amberglen Blvd.
Austin, TX, 78729

512-419-5316
512-454-8807 (Fax)
Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com

----- Forwarded by Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek/Austin/URSCorp on 03/20/2003 09:18 AM -----

Nancy Gates

To: Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek/Austin/URSCorp@URSCORP

03/19/2003 12:03 cc:

PM

Subject: Request for information

Jaya,

To plan for the public involvement activities associated with the proposed SGR project, I would like to find out about what kinds of contacts SGR representatives have had with local stakeholders since the year 2000. I have searched the website "dont mess with quihi.com" and noted that there have been no postings from the Medina County Environmental Action Association in the last three years.

In particular, I am requesting information on:

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- New issues that may have emerged
- Types of contact (meetings, phone conversations)

Thanks so much,
Nancy



"Coburn, David"
<DCoburn@steptoe.com>
03/26/2003 02:12 PM

To "Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@URSCorp.com"
<Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@URSCorp.com>
cc ghoshr@stb.dot.gov, Nancy_Gates@URSCorp.com, "Darrell
Brownlow (brranch@gte.net)" <brranch@gte.net>
bcc
Subject RE: Request for additional information- SGR EA- public
involvement task

Jaya -- I have attached a chronology of various public contacts that Vulcan and SGR have had since mid 1999 relative to the rail project. Of course, many of these same contacts also concerned the quarry project.

We will forward some news clippings under separate cover. Please let me know if you or your colleagues have any questions or would like to discuss this further. Regards. David

-----Original Message-----

From: Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@URSCorp.com [mailto:Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@URSCorp.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2003 10:22 AM
To: Coburn, David
Cc: ghoshr@stb.dot.gov; Nancy_Gates@URSCorp.com
Subject: Request for additional information- SGR EA- public involvement task

David,

Please see the request for information below. Could you please forward it to Vulcan? If you and Vulcan wish, we could also set up a conference call to discuss this information

Thanks

Jaya

Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek
Senior Biochemical/Environmental Engineer
URS Corporation
9400 Amberglen Blvd.
Austin, TX, 78729

512-419-5316
512-454-8807 (Fax)
Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com

----- Forwarded by Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek/Austin/URSCorp on 03/20/2003 09:18 AM -----

Nancy Gates

To: Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek/Austin/URSCorp@URSCORP

03/19/2003 12:03 cc:

PM Subject: Request for information

Jaya,

To plan for the public involvement activities associated with the proposed SGR project, I would like to find out about what kinds of contacts SGR representatives have had with local stakeholders since the year 2000. I have searched the website "dont mess with quihi.com" and noted that there have been no postings from the Medina County Environmental Action Association in the last three years.

In particular, I am requesting information on:

- Types of people contacted (e.g., landowners, MCEAA members, local government officials, etc.)
- New issues that may have emerged
- Types of contact (meetings, phone conversations)

Thanks so much,
Nancy



- VMC and SGR list of contacts.doc

March 26, 2003

**Vulcan Materials Company (VMC) and Southwest Gulf Railroad (SGR)
Chronology of Public Contacts Relative to
Proposed Rail Line Between the Proposed Medina County
Quarry and a Connection with the UP Line Near Dunlay,
Texas**

STB Finance Docket No. 34284

Time	Activity
August 1999	VMC negotiates and secures leases on quarry and plant site properties.
October 1999	Meeting with Medina County Commissioner Royce Hartmann.
November -December 1999	Meetings with three landowners along proposed rail route.
January 2000	Meetings with several landowners along proposed rail route and with local residents Meetings with Medina County business leaders
February 2000	Attended public meeting of newly formed Medina County Environmental Action Association (MCEAA). Meeting with Medina County Commissioner Royce Hartmann. Meeting with Hondo Area Business Group, (Chamber of Commerce), including Hondo Mayor Jim Barden, who on November 2002 was elected as Medina County Judge, replacing David Montgomery.. Meeting with Medina County Judge David Montgomery. Meeting with landowner along proposed rail route. Meeting with State Representative Tracy King.

March 2000	<p>Meetings with landowners along proposed rail route and area resident.</p> <p>President of MCEAA given tour of existing Vulcan quarry and rail loading operations in adjacent Bexar County</p> <p>Meeting with Texas Department of Transportation local officials.</p>
April 2000	<p>Presented information on proposed rail line and quarry to Medina County Republican Men's Club.</p>
May 2000	<p>Presented information on the proposed rail line and quarry to Castroville Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>Meeting with landowner along proposed rail route.</p>
October 2000	<p>Presented additional information on the rail line and the project to Castroville Chamber of Commerce</p>
November 2000	<p>Meeting with landowner along proposed rail route</p>
January 2001	<p>Meetings with landowners along proposed rail route.</p> <p>Presented information on the rail line and the quarry to the Edwards Aquifer Authority.</p>
February 2001	<p>Meeting with area landowner.</p>
March 2001	<p>Meeting with area landowner.</p>
April 2001	<p>Provided tour of quarry project site and proposed rail line corridor to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.</p> <p>Commenced Biological Assessment/Endangered Species Surveys for quarry site and rail corridor.</p>
May 2001	<p>Meeting with Schweers Historical Association members (Quihi area historical association group)</p> <p>Meeting with Medina County Judge David Montgomery.</p>
June 2001	<p>Presented information on the rail line and the quarry to Medina Electric COOP.</p>

August 2001	Provided tour of Vulcan quarry and related rail operations in adjacent Bexar and Uvalde Counties to group of Castroville and Quihi area residents.
October 2001	Meeting with Schweers Historical Association.
December 2001	Submitted Biological Assessment Report for both the quarry project site and rail corridor to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
February 2002	Meeting with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to discuss Biological Assessment.
March 2002	Second Endangered Species Biological Field Surveys
May 2002	Meeting with staff of Congressman Henry Bonilla.
June 2002	Meeting with Schweers Historical Association
July 2002	Responded to comments on the Biological Assessment from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Albuquerque Office.
December 2002	Attended Schweers Historical Association's Open House in Quihi.
January 2003	Provided update to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
February 2003	Telephone discussion with U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (Fort Worth office) concerning rail crossing of Quihi Creek.
March 2003	Meeting with State Senator Frank Madla (represents Medina County).
	Meeting with State Representative Robert Puente, Chairman of the Texas House Natural Resources Committee.
	Meeting with State Representative Timoteo Garza (Rep. Garza was elected in Nov. 2002, as the new State Representative for Medina County, replacing state representative Tracy King).
	Meeting with newly elected Medina County Judge Jim Barden (formerly Mayor of Hondo).
	Third Endangered Species Biological Field Survey

* * *

In addition to the above listed contacts, Vulcan Materials Company has, over the course of the rail project, responded to the numerous requests of individual Medina

County residents and the media for information related to the proposed rail line. More details on these contacts and on the meetings and other contacts described above are available should these be needed.

Further, there have been several articles on the proposed rail line and quarry in the local press. We will supply copies of these articles under separate cover.

Rini Ghosh/STB
04/09/2003 05:18 PM

To "Coburn, David" <DCoburn@steptoe.com>
Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@URSCorp.com,
cc Nancy_Gates@URSCorp.com, "Darrell Brownlow"
<brranch@gte.net>
bcc
Subject Public involvement SGR □

Thank you so much for providing the news clippings. As you know, Jaya and Nancy Gates, URS' public outreach consultant for this project, had some follow-up questions regarding the chronology of Vulcan's public outreach that you provided to us earlier, and they spoke with Darrell Brownlow earlier today. They informed me that they had a follow-up request based on their conversation, which I am passing on to you.

Would you be able to provide us with the list of public contacts Vulcan has compiled for the project? When we develop our list of public contacts, we want to make sure to include all the people who have previously expressed interest in the project.

Thanks,
Rini
(202) 565-1539



"Coburn, David"
<DCoburn@steptoe.com>
04/23/2003 04:37 PM

To "Rini Ghosh (ghoshr@stb.dot.gov)" <ghoshr@stb.dot.gov>,
"Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek
(Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com)"
<Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com>
cc "Darrell T. Brownlow Ph. D. (brranch@gte.net)"
<brranch@gte.net>

bcc

Subject Contact Addresses

Rini/Jaya -- Here is the list of addresses that you requested in connection with a possible informational letter that we understand is under consideration. The addresses reflect the names of landowners who own property on or immediately adjacent to the rail line, as well as local officials who have been advised of the project (some of whom received the earlier letter requesting comments.)

We look forward to the opportunity, if possible, to comment on any informational letter that you may prepare. Regards. David

<<SGR Contact List.doc>>

David H. Coburn
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202.429.8063 Direct
202.261.0565 Direct Facsimile
202.429.3902 Central Facsimile
dcoburn@steptoe.com

Information contained in or attached to this e-mail may be privileged, confidential, and protected from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, review, dissemination or copying is prohibited. If you received this message in error, please immediately email the sender and delete




the message and any attachments. SGR Contact List.doc

SOUTHWEST GULF RAILROAD CONTACT LIST

Available upon request from the Section of Environmental Analysis

Rini Ghosh/STB
05/22/2003 05:47 PM

To "Coburn, David" <DCoburn@steptoe.com>
cc
bcc
Subject FD 34284 - letter for public meeting 



openhouseltr.wpd



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

May __, 2003

**Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34284 – Southwest Gulf Railroad Company –
Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX**

Dear Interested Party:

The Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is conducting an environmental review analyzing the potential environmental issues associated with Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's (SGR's) proposal to build and operate a new, seven-mile rail line in Medina County, Texas. SEA will be holding an open house on Thursday, June 12, 2003, to inform the public about the proposed project and the environmental review process. The open house will be from 5 – 7 p.m. at the McDowell Middle School cafeteria at 1602 27th St. in Hondo, Texas.

The Environmental Review Process

The Surface Transportation Board (Board) is a Federal regulatory agency with jurisdiction over proposals to construct and operate rail lines. Because SGR's proposed rail construction and operation is a major Federal action requiring Board approval, SEA is conducting an environmental review of the potential environmental impacts of SGR's proposal in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

After conducting appropriate environmental studies, SEA will issue for public review and comment a draft environmental document setting forth SEA's preliminary recommendations and conclusions. SEA will then consider all comments received from the general public, government agencies, and other interested parties, and will conduct further analysis and review, if necessary, before submitting its final recommendations to the Board. Upon completion of the environmental review, the Board will issue a final decision on SGR's proposal.

SEA's environmental review will involve an analysis of the following areas:

- Safety and health;
- Land use;
- Environmental justice;
- Physical setting;

- Water resources;
- Biological resources;
- Transportation;
- Air quality;
- Noise;
- Cultural resources;
- Recreational resources;
- Social and economic effects; and
- Cumulative effects.

SGR's Proposed Project

SGR's proposed rail line would extend about seven miles from a new Vulcan Materials Company limestone quarry in Medina County to a connection with the Union Pacific Railroad Company near Dunlay, Texas. Although the line would primarily serve the quarry, SGR states that it would also be available to serve any other nearby industries, including other quarries, in the future.

In determining the possible route for the rail line, SGR initially looked at eight possible alternatives. These alternatives were screened for favorable topography, avoidance of wetlands, and smallest number of properties to be crossed. Four of the initial alternatives met the screening criteria.

Through further analysis of these four alternatives SGR identified a proposed route that, although not the shortest, avoids environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands. According to SGR, the other possible routes would cross more properties and offer no environmental advantages over the proposed route. The attached map shows SGR's proposed route and the alternative routes.

The "no build" alternative would involve transporting crushed rock from the quarry via other means such as trucks. According to SGR, this alternative presents environmental and economic disadvantages.

Open House

Public participation is an important part of the environmental review process. SEA is conducting the open house to provide all interested members of the public with an opportunity to learn about the environmental review process for this project and how they can participate.

Representatives of SEA and of SEA's consultant, URS Corporation, Inc., who is working under the supervision, direction, and control of SEA to assist in the preparation of the environmental document, will be available to answer your questions and hear your concerns. In

addition, representatives of Vulcan Materials Company and SGR will be present to answer questions and provide information about their proposal.

We hope you will join us on June 12th and look forward to providing you with additional information about the environmental review process. If you have any questions about the open house, please contact the project hotline at (URS voicemail number to be filled in).

Sincerely

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis



"Coburn, David"
<DCoburn@steptoe.com>

05/28/2003 05:58 PM

"Rini Ghosh (ghoshr@stb.dot.gov)" <ghoshr@stb.dot.gov>,
"Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek
To (Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com)"
<Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com>, "Darrell T.
Brownlow Ph. D. (brranch@gte.net)" <brranch@gte.net>

cc

bcc

Subject SGR Project -- Call to Discuss Site Visit/Open House

Rini -- You indicated that you wanted to schedule a call to discuss the above matters. Does Monday, June 2 at 11 am EST (10 am CST) work for you and Jaya? It is fine for me and Darrell, as is any other time that morning. I look forward to hearing from you. Regards. David

David H. Coburn
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202.429.8063 Direct
202.261.0565 Direct Facsimile
202.429.3902 Central Facsimile
dcoburn@steptoe.com

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Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@U
RSCorp.com
05/29/2003 09:46 AM

To "Coburn, David" <DCoburn@steptoe.com>
"Darrell T. Brownlow Ph. D. (brranch@gte.net)"
cc <brranch@gte.net>, "Rini Ghosh (ghoshr@stb.dot.gov)"
<ghoshr@stb.dot.gov>
bcc
Subject Re: SGR Project -- Call to Discuss Site Visit/Open House

The proposed time and date work well for me. Just let me know.

Jaya

Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek
Project Manager
URS Corporation
9400 Amberglenn Blvd.
Austin, TX, 78729

512-419-5316
512-454-8807 (Fax)
Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com

"Coburn, David"
<DCoburn@steptoe.
(ghoshr@stb.dot.gov)" <ghoshr@stb.dot.gov>, "Jaya
com>
(Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com)"
To: "Rini Ghosh
Zyman-Ponebshek
<Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com>, "Darrell T. Brownlow Ph. D.
(brranch@gte.net)"
05/28/2003 04:58
PM
<brranch@gte.net>
cc:
Subject: SGR Project -- Call
to Discuss Site Visit/Open House

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message and any attachments.

Rini Ghosh/STB
05/29/2003 12:01 PM

To "Coburn, David" <DCoburn@steptoe.com>
"Darrell T. Brownlow Ph. D. (brranch@gte.net)"
<brranch@gte.net>, "Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek
(Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com)"
<Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com>
cc
bcc
Subject Re: SGR Project -- Call to Discuss Site Visit/Open House

11 am on Monday is fine for me as well. Will you be calling Jaya and me or is there a certain number we should call? I can only conference in 2 other parties from my phone. thanks.

"Coburn, David" <DCoburn@steptoe.com>



"Coburn, David"
<DCoburn@steptoe.com>
05/28/2003 05:58 PM

"Rini Ghosh (ghoshr@stb.dot.gov)" <ghoshr@stb.dot.gov>,
"Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek
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To <Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com>, "Darrell T.
Brownlow Ph. D. (brranch@gte.net)" <brranch@gte.net>
cc
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Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@UR
SCorp.com
06/03/2003 09:48 AM

To ghoshr@stb.dot.gov
cc
bcc
Subject List of Persons Interested in SGR

Rini,

This is the list I got from Darrell concerning proponents for the project. Would you like to review it and tell me if you want me to send letters to them today?

Thanks

Jaya

Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek
Project Manager
URS Corporation
9400 Amberglenn Blvd.
Austin, TX, 78729

512-419-5316
512-454-8807 (Fax)
Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com

----- Forwarded by Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek/Austin/URSCorp on 06/03/2003 08:46 AM -----

"Coburn, David"
<DCoburn@steptoe.
(Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com) ">
com>
<Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com>
Ph. D. (brranch@gte.net) "> <brranch@gte.net>
06/03/2003 08:43
Interested in SGR
AM

To: "Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek
cc: "Darrell T. Brownlow
Subject: List of Persons

Jaya -- Darrell has put together the attached list of persons who we understand have been generally supportive of the SGR project. I assume that you may wish to forward invitation letters to them. Regards. David

<<SGR List.jpg>>

David H. Coburn
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
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message and any attachments. (See attached file: SGR List.jpg)



SGR List.jpg

List of Names submitted by SGR available upon request from the Section of Environmental Analysis



"Coburn, David"
<DCoburn@steptoe.com>
06/10/2003 04:24 PM

To "Rini Ghosh (ghoshr@stb.dot.gov)" <ghoshr@stb.dot.gov>,
"Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek
(Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com)"
<Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com>
cc "Darrell T. Brownlow Ph. D. (brranch@gte.net)"
<brranch@gte.net>

bcc

Subject Possible Questions about Railroad

Rini/Jaya -- In advance of Thursday's open house, Darrell has written down questions and concerns that, based on his attendance at prior meetings, may come up on the 12th. Obviously, many of these questions/concerns would appear to fall outside the scope of SEA's environmental review, and many relate to the quarry as opposed to the rail line. Other questions relate to matters addressed in our reply to the petition to revoke, which we filed with the STB yesterday, copy attached. Regards. David

1. Condemnation /Rail route Issues.

- A. How was the route determined ?
- B. Will my land be condemned ?
- C. If they condemn my land, what will I get paid ?
- D. I signed a covenant restricting a railroad from being on my property, so how will this effect that ?

2. Railroad Merit Issues

- A. How can the STB approve a rail line when there's not even a quarry ?
- B. Why does a rock quarry need a rail line anyway ?
- C. The area is already supplied with enough rock. Therefore why is there any need for a new quarry ?
- D. Why does Vulcan need more rocks given reserves available elsewhere?
- E. Vulcan already serves the Houston Market by ship. Why do they need rail ?
- F. Vulcan's competitor, Martin Marietta Materials, says that they are already serving that market and that Vulcan doesn't need to sell material there.

3. Rail Transportation Issues

- A. How can you keep this railroad from adversely impacting traffic in the area ?
- B. The railroad should have grade separations at each intersection of a county or state road.
- C. How much truck traffic will be going to the quarry in addition to the rail traffic ?
- D. Will the trains be blowing their whistles at all hours of the day and night ?
- E. Will the rail berms cause flooding in the area ?
- F. Will the flooding caused from the rail berms destroy the old historic homes in the area ?
- G. Will the vibrations from the trains cause damage to the homes in the area ?
- H. What happens if the locomotives spill hazardous cargo along the route ?
- I. Will the rail cars be covered, keeping dust from spewing out across the countryside ?
- J. The rail bridges over the creeks will become filled with debris and cause devastating floods when these bridges break.

4. Environmental Issues

- A. The quarry will contaminate the Edwards Aquifer
- B. Blasting at the quarry will break Medina Lake dam.
- C. The quarry site has endangered species on it and would be harmed by the quarry.
- D. The effects of the quarry operation will cause medical problems for the neighbors.

5. Property Values and Business

- A. The rail line and quarry will keep businesses from moving to the area.
- B. The rail line and quarry will prevent residential development in the area.
- C. The rail line and quarry will prevent the recreational use of the area.
- D. The rail line and quarry will cause property values to decline.
- E. The rail line and quarry will cause property values to increase which will cause property taxes to rise.

6. Economic Benefits

- A. The proposed jobs that the rail and quarry will produce are only slightly above poverty level jobs.
- B. Vulcan will import most of the jobs from other areas and therefore the jobs will not go to local area residents.
- C. More property taxes could be raised by attracting new residential homes to the area without the quarry than would be generated with the quarry.

7. Vulcan

- A. Vulcan is secretly buying up land in the area using a company called MedTex.
- B. Vulcan has not performed the necessary environmental (endangered species) surveys on the quarry property.



Verified Reply of Southwest Gulf Railroad Co..PDF



Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@UR
SCorp.com

12/11/2003 10:59 AM

To ghoshr@stb.dot.gov

cc

bcc

Subject SGR Project -- Call to Discuss Site Visit/Open House

Rini,

I am forwarding to you the string of e-mails I found regarding the open house.

Jaya

Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek
Project Manager
URS Corporation
9400 Amberglenn Blvd.
Austin, TX, 78729

512-419-5316
512-454-8807 (Fax)
Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com

----- Forwarded by Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek/Austin/URSCorp on 12/11/2003 09:56 AM -----

"Coburn, David"
<DCoburn@steptoe. To: "Rini Ghosh
(ghoshr@stb.dot.gov)" <ghoshr@stb.dot.gov>, "Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek
com>
(Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com)" <Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com>,
"Darrell T.
Brownlow Ph. D.
(brranch@gte.net)" <brranch@gte.net>
05/28/2003 04:58
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cc:
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David H. Coburn
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
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202.429.8063 Direct
202.261.0565 Direct Facsimile

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----- Forwarded by Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek/Austin/URSCorp on 12/11/2003 09:56
AM -----

"Coburn, David"
<DCoburn@steptoe.com> To:
"ghoshr@stb.dot.gov" <ghoshr@stb.dot.gov>
cc: "Darrell T. Brownlow
Ph. D. (brranch@gte.net)" <brranch@gte.net>, "Jaya
Zyman-Ponebshek
(Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com)" <Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com>
05/29/2003 01:03 Subject: RE: SGR Project --
Call to Discuss Site Visit/Open House
PM

Rini: I will call you and conference in Jaya and Darrell from my phone.
Regards. David

-----Original Message-----

From: ghoshr@stb.dot.gov [mailto:ghoshr@stb.dot.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2003 12:02 PM
To: Coburn, David
Cc: Darrell T. Brownlow Ph. D. (brranch@gte.net); Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek
(Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com)
Subject: Re: SGR Project -- Call to Discuss Site Visit/Open House

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"Coburn, David"
<DCoburn@steptoe.
com>

05/28/2003 05:58
PM

To
"Rini Ghosh (ghoshr@stb.dot.gov)"
<ghoshr@stb.dot.gov>, "Jaya
Zyman-Ponebshek
(Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com)"
<Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com>,
"Darrell T. Brownlow Ph. D.
(brranch@gte.net)"
<brranch@gte.net>

cc

Subject
SGR Project -- Call to Discuss Site
Visit/Open House

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----- Forwarded by Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek/Austin/URSCorp on 12/11/2003 09:56 AM -----

"Coburn, David"
<DCoburn@steptoe.
(Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com)"
com>
<Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com>
Ph. D. (brranch@gte.net)" <brranch@gte.net>
06/03/2003 08:43
Interested in SGR
AM

To: "Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek
cc: "Darrell T. Brownlow
Subject: List of Persons

Jaya -- Darrell has put together the attached list of persons who we understand have been generally supportive of the SGR project. I assume that you may wish to forward invitation letters to them. Regards. David

<<SGR List.jpg>>

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"Coburn, David"
<DCoburn@steptoe.com>
To: "'ghoshr@stb.dot.gov'" <ghoshr@stb.dot.gov>, brranch@gte.net
cc: Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com
Subject: RE: List of Persons Interested in SGR
06/04/2003 05:15 PM

Rini -- Thanks. David

-----Original Message-----
From: ghoshr@stb.dot.gov [mailto:ghoshr@stb.dot.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2003 3:34 PM
To: DCoburn@steptoe.com; brranch@gte.net
Cc: Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@URSCorp.com
Subject: Re: List of Persons Interested in SGR

Thank you so much for sending us the list of additional names. We will be sure to include them on any future mailings and on the service list for the environmental document. However, since we have already had 2 batches of mailings for the open house and are putting out the newspaper ad, we have decided not to send out additional invitation letters to the open house. But please feel free to spread the word about the open house to anyone who may be interested. Thanks, Rini

Jaya_Zyman-Ponebs
hek@URSCorp.com

06/03/2003 09:48 AM

ghoshr@stb.dot.gov

To

cc

Subject
List of Persons Interested in SGR

Rini,

This is the list I got from Darrell concerning proponents for the project. Would you like to review it and tell me if you want me to send letters to them today?

Thanks

Jaya

Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek
Project Manager
URS Corporation
9400 Amberglen Blvd.
Austin, TX, 78729

512-419-5316
512-454-8807 (Fax)
Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com

----- Forwarded by Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek/Austin/URSCorp on 06/03/2003 08:46 AM -----

"Coburn, David"

<DCoburn@steptoe. To: "Jaya
Zyman-Ponebshek (Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com)"
com>
<Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com>

cc: "Darrell T.
Brownlow Ph. D. (brranch@gte.net)" <brranch@gte.net>
06/03/2003 08:43 Subject: List of Persons
Interested in SGR
AM

Jaya -- Darrell has put together the attached list of persons who we understand have been generally supportive of the SGR project. I assume

that you may wish to forward invitation letters to them. Regards. David

<<SGR List.jpg>>

David H. Coburn
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202.429.8063 Direct
202.261.0565 Direct Facsimile
202.429.3902 Central Facsimile
dcoburn@steptoe.com

Information contained in or attached to this e-mail may be privileged, confidential, and protected from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, review, dissemination or copying is prohibited. If you received this message in error, please immediately e-mail the sender and delete the message and any attachments. (See attached file: SGR List.jpg)

[attachment "SGR List.jpg" deleted by Rini Ghosh/STB]

----- Forwarded by Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek/Austin/URSCorp on 12/11/2003 09:56 AM -----

"Coburn, David"
<DCoburn@steptoe.com>
(ghoshr@stb.dot.gov)" <ghoshr@stb.dot.gov>, "Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek
(Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com)" <Jaya_Zyman-Ponebshek@urscorp.com>
To: "Rini Ghosh
cc: "Darrell T. Brownlow
Ph. D. (brranch@gte.net)" <brranch@gte.net>
06/10/2003 03:24 Subject: Possible Questions
about Railroad
PM

Rini/Jaya -- In advance of Thursday's open house, Darrell has written down questions and concerns that, based on his attendance at prior meetings, may come up on the 12th. Obviously, many of these questions/concerns would appear to fall outside the scope of SEA's environmental review, and many relate to the quarry as opposed to the rail line. Other questions relate to matters addressed in our reply to the petition to revoke, which we filed with the STB yesterday, copy attached. Regards. David

1. Condemnation /Rail route Issues.

- A. How was the route determined ?
- B. Will my land be condemned ?
- C. If they condemn my land, what will I get paid ?
- D. I signed a covenant restricting a railroad from being on my property, so how will this effect that ?

2. Railroad Merit Issues

- A. How can the STB approve a rail line when there's not even a quarry ?
- B. Why does a rock quarry need a rail line anyway ?
- C. The area is already supplied with enough rock. Therefore why is there any need for a new quarry ?
- D. Why does Vulcan need more rocks given reserves available elsewhere?
- E. Vulcan already serves the Houston Market by ship. Why do they need rail ?
- F. Vulcan's competitor, Martin Marietta Materials, says that they are already serving that market and that Vulcan doesn't need to sell material there.

3. Rail Transportation Issues

- A. How can you keep this railroad from adversely impacting traffic in the area ?
- B. The railroad should have grade separations at each intersection of a county or state road.
- C. How much truck traffic will be going to the quarry in addition to the rail traffic ?
- D. Will the trains be blowing their whistles at all hours of the day and night ?
- E. Will the rail berms cause flooding in the area ?
- F. Will the flooding caused from the rail berms destroy the old historic homes in the area ?
- G. Will the vibrations from the trains cause damage to the homes in the area ?

H. What happens if the locomotives spill hazardous cargo along the route ?

I. Will the rail cars be covered, keeping dust from spewing out across the countryside ?

J. The rail bridges over the creeks will become filled with debris and cause devastating floods when these bridges break.

4. Environmental Issues

A. The quarry will contaminate the Edwards Aquifer

B. Blasting at the quarry will break Medina Lake dam.

C. The quarry site has endangered species on it and would be harmed by the quarry.

D. The effects of the quarry operation will cause medical problems for the neighbors.

5. Property Values and Business

A. The rail line and quarry will keep businesses from moving to the area.

B. The rail line and quarry will prevent residential development in the area.

C. The rail line and quarry will prevent the recreational use of the area.

D. The rail line and quarry will cause property values to decline.

E. The rail line and quarry will cause property values to increase which will cause property taxes to rise.

6. Economic Benefits

A. The proposed jobs that the rail and quarry will produce are only slightly above poverty level jobs.

B. Vulcan will import most of the jobs from other areas and therefore the jobs will not go to local area residents.

C. More property taxes could be raised by attracting new residential homes to the area without the quarry than would be generated with the quarry.

7. Vulcan

A. Vulcan is secretly buying up land in the area using a company called MedTex.

B. Vulcan has not performed the necessary environmental (endangered species) surveys on the quarry property.

(See attached file: Verified Reply of Southwest Gulf Railroad Co..PDF)



SGR List.jpg Verified Reply of Southwest Gulf Railroad Co..PDF

Sign-in list of Open House attendees available upon request from the Section of Environmental Analysis.